

NEW COMBINATIONS IN SECT. *EREMOSIS* OF *VERNONIA* (ASTERACEAE)

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ABSTRACT

Three new varietal combinations are made in *Vernonia* (sect. *Eremosis*), these are: *V. obtusa* var. *bartlettii*; *V. obtusa* var. *parkeri* and *V. triflosculosa* var. *palmeri*. So treated, *V. obtusa* has three intergrading varieties and *V. triflosculosa* has two intergrading varieties. A map showing the distribution of *V. obtusa* is presented.

KEY WORDS: *Vernonia obtusa*, *Vernonia triflosculosa*, *Eremosis*, systematics, México.

Preparation of a treatment of *Vernonia* for the Asteraceae of México has necessitated the following new combinations within the sect. *Eremosis*.

Vernonia obtusa var. *bartlettii* (S.B. Jones) B. Turner, comb. nov. Based upon *Vernonia duncanii* subsp. *bartlettii* S.B. Jones, Brittonia 25:110. 1973.

Jones (1973) treated this taxon as a subspecies of his *Vernonia duncanii*. I would include the latter within my concept of *V. obtusa*, the subsp. *duncanii* being synonymous with *V. obtusa* var. *obtusa*; the subsp. *bartlettii* is somewhat more distinct and largely confined to the vicinity of Gomez Farias, Tamaulipas. Consequently it is retained as a well-marked localized variety. In foliage, *V. obtusa* var. *bartlettii* resembles the var. *parkeri*, but the latter possesses smaller leaves and grades into the var. *obtusa* (cf below). The geographical relationships of these several taxa are shown in figure 1.

Vernonia obtusa var. *parkeri* (S.B. Jones) B. Turner, comb. nov. Based upon *Vernonia obtusa* subsp. *parkeri* S.B. Jones, Brittonia 25:108. 1973.

As noted above, this taxon is only weakly differentiated from the var. *obtusa*, both occurring in pine-oak forests from 1000-3000 m; the var. *bartlettii* is somewhat more distinct, occurring in mixed tropical deciduous forests at lower elevations (600-1000 m). The several varieties may be keyed as follows:

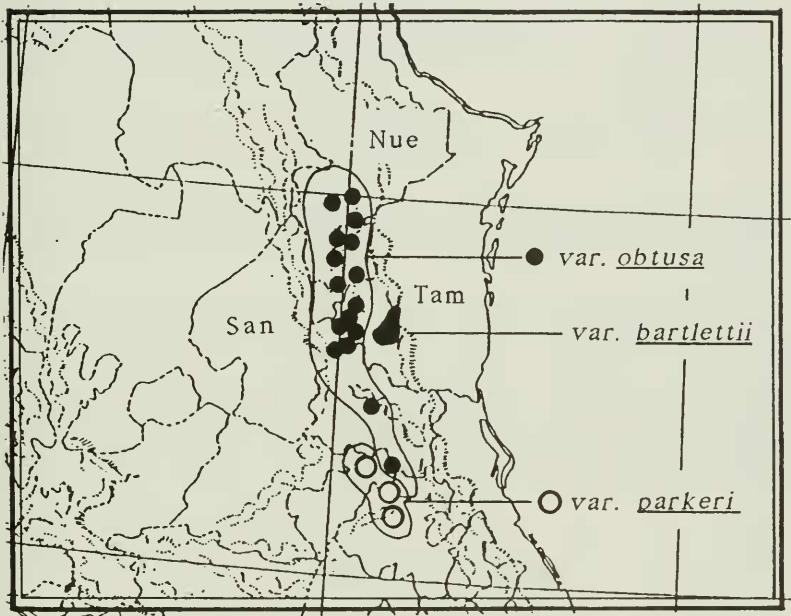


Fig. 1. Distribution of varieties in *Vernonia obtusa*.

1. Leaves densely and persistently puberulent to tomentulose beneath; pine-oak forests, southern Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas to northern Querétaro var. *obtusa*
1. Leaves glabrous or nearly so, usually somewhat glandular punctate beneath and sparsely pubescent along the major veins (2)
 2. Leaves lanceolate to oblanceolate, mostly 10-15 cm long; S Tamaulipas, tropical deciduous forests 600-1000 m var. *bartlettii*
 2. Leaves ovate to ovate elliptic, mostly 5-8 cm long, Querétaro and Hidalgo, pine-oak forests, 1000-2500 m var. *parkeri*

Vernonia triflosculosa H.B.K. var. *palmeri* (Rose) B. Turner, comb. nov.
Based upon *Vernonia palmeri* Rose, Contr. U.S. Natl. Herb. 1:101. 1891.

As noted by McVaugh (1984), this taxon has been retained at the specific level by most workers. However, he suggested that *V. palmeri* (and *V. barbinervis* Schultz-Bip. might best be treated as part of *V. triflosculosa*. Jones (1973), however, retained *V. barbinervis* (as I do) but treated *V. palmeri* as a subsp. of *V. triflosculosa*, noting that the two subsp. intergrade near regions of contact. I agree with this observation and therefore treat *V. palmeri* at the varietal level (varietal concepts are given in Turner, 1988).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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LITERATURE CITED

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